

Volume 32 Issue 3 • Feb. 11-24, 2014

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Valentine's, Pre-Mardi Gras

Celebrating LGBT+ Life, Music & Culture!

► 50th Bourbon St. Awards see page 4, 35

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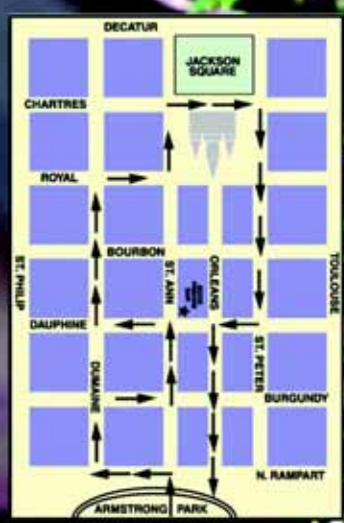
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the "official" dish

by Rip & Marsha Naquin-Delain
Email: marsha@ripandmarsha.com

Oz & Ambush Mag host 50th Annual Bourbon Street Awards Worth \$3,000 in Cash Prizes

The 50th Annual Bourbon Street Awards show, the ultimate costume contest, is set for Mardi Gras day, March 4th at 12noon. Johnny Chisholm and Oz New Orleans, as well as **Ambush Mag** brings us this fantastic contest. Award category prizes are worth a total of \$3,000! Categories include: Best Drag, Best Leather, Best Group and Best of Show with 1st, 2nd and 3rd places in each category. First place in each category wins \$500 cash. The Best Overall Costume, the grandest award of all, garners a whopping \$1,000 cash prize.

Celebrity emcees will feature the talents of current RuPaul Drag Race Contestant Bianca Del Rio and Oz's own Blanche Debris.

In 2009, for the first time in 23 years, the contest actually took place back on Bourbon Street. Since 2002, Oz New Orleans has presented the contest on St. Ann at Bourbon. 2009 saw the contest outside Oz on Bourbon Street down from **Ambush** headquarters at 828 Bourbon. The awards were previously held outside of Cafe Lafitte in Exile on Bourbon until 1985 when it was moved to the corner of Burgundy and St. Ann outside of Rawhide in 1986.

The parade of costumes will originate down Bourbon at Dumaine passing both Cafe Lafitte in Exile and Clover Grill, the original site of the awards, heading past **Ambush** headquarters towards Oz at 800 Bourbon.

The Bourbon Street Awards, now entering its fifth decade, has hosted some of the most exciting and extravagant Mardi Gras costumes ever seen. The 50th Annual Bourbon Street Awards will be "The Best Free Show of Mardi Gras."



Barbara Ella to Reign as "The Borghese Queen" at 21st King Cake Queen Coronation Feb. 16

As King Cake Queen XX Dusty Debris' beautiful reign comes to an end, the 21st King Cake Queen of Gay Mardi Gras Coronation this Sunday, Feb. 16th will introduce Barbara Ella to Carnival Society as "The Borghese Queen." Hosted at the famed **Ambush** Mansion on Bourbon Street, the Krewe of Queenateenas celebrate "Rome, Royalty & Intrigue." The home's balcony celebrates the theme in brilliant red, purple and gold with Adam and Steve (the mannequins) dressed in black slacks, red shirts, white dinner jackets and red/white Venetian masks. By invitation only, admit cards are required at entrance for the coronation. (Attire: gentlemen in tuxedo or suit, ladies in evening gown or evening suit.)

The festive evening includes the royalty receiving line until 8:45pm in the first floor **Ambush Mag** offices from where Borghese Gumbo will be served along with the wine and beer bar. The King Cake Queen gift exchange from the new queen and former queens is set for 9pm.

Down the hallway will lead guests to the patio, and the King Cake Queen stairwell where the new queen's portrait by renowned photographer Larry Graham will hang along with previous



King Cake Queen XXI of Gay Mardi Gras Barbara Ella (Photo by Larry Graham)

queens. Here a stop at Belle Lain's Magnolia Bar, guests will be served cocktails or soft drinks.

Entering the second floor hallway, guests will find the formal Victorian parlour, and the dining room serving the remainder of "Banchetto di Carnevale," translation for feast of carnival. It includes Venison & Veal Ousso Bucco with Italian egg noodles, Meatballs Cacciatore, Eggplant Caponata with cream cheese, Stuffed Artichoke Caserole with crabmeat, Antipasto Salad featuring elk salami, provolone, prosciutto, swiss & bison mortadella with Ditalini, Goat Cheese Pyramid with figs & pancetta, and Antoine's Cream Cheese King Cake.

And finally through the dining room guests will find themselves on the famous Bourbon Street balcony, site of both the Official Gay Mardi Gras Bead Toss on March 4th, and Southern Decadence Bead Toss Labor Day weekend. For more information, visit www.GayMardiGras.com/KCQ.

22nd Krewe of Barkus Parade Feb. 23

The Mystic Krewe of Barkus, the only officially licensed Mardi Gras krewe by and for canines, will take to the streets of the French Quarter for the 22nd year on Sunday, Feb. 23, 1pm, to the theme "Dogzilla: Barkus Licks the Crescent City." This is sure to be a canine encounter of epic proportions and a gathering of paws that is certain to sniff out the monster inside every krewe member. It promises to be a celebration to empower every four-legged creature with the bark of nature only a dogzilla can deliver. For one day, this krewe will take over the French Quarter and lick the Crescent City with dog pageantry that applauds the talented and talentless, judges not on your education, worldliness or degree of dental care, but on your sass and frass and how your tail wags. Visit www.Barkus.org for registration and other information.

The Mystic Krewe of Barkus was envisioned and created in November 1992 at a meeting of the Margaret Orr (WDSU-TV Weather Anchor) Fan Club held at Good Friends Bar. Thomas Wood brought his dog Jo Jo McWood to the meeting, where people com-

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OFFICE/SHIPPING ADDRESS:
828-A Bourbon St., New Orleans, LA 70116-3137
USA

OFFICE HOURS: 10am-3pm
Monday-Friday [Except Holidays]
Email: marsha@ripandmarsha.com
PHONE: 1.504.522.8049

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STAFF:

PUBLISHER/EDITOR

R. Rip Naquin-Delain, New Orleans

PRODUCTION DIRECTOR

M. Marsha Naquin-Delain, New Orleans

GULF SOUTH/NEW ORLEANS AD SALES

Rip Naquin-Delain • 504.522.8049

NEW ORLEANS AD SALES

Paul Melancon 504.357.8440

THEATRE/PERFORMING ARTS CRITIC

Brian Sands

AD REPS/JOURNALISTS/PHOTOGRAPHERS

Frank Joseph, Charles Jenkins, Tony Leggio,

Frank Perez, Arthur Severio,

Rev. Bill Terry-New Orleans

Bob Brunson, Mlss Cie & John, Leon Weekley-

Mobile, AL

Lauren Mitchell-Pensacola, FL

National Advertising Rep:

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plained about her neurotic ways. To get back at them all, Wood decided to make Jo Jo McWood queen of her own

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Giant Mardi Gras issue out Feb. 25

>DEADLINE: Fri., Feb. 14

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AD INFO: Call 504.522.8049
marsha@ripandmarsha.com

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828-A Bourbon St. • New Orleans, LA 70116-3137 • 504.522.8049
marsha@ripandmarsha.com